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LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach a copy of the declaration adopted on 31 May 1995 by the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) concerning the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). I should be grateful if you could arrange to have it distributed to the members of the Security Council and circulated as an official document of the Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English]

Declaration on the United Nations Protection Force adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference on 31 May 1995

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply concerned over the erosion of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the suffering of the civilian population there as a result of that erosion, reaffirms its resolve to strengthen UNPROFOR. In this context, OIC presents the following.

OIC commends the courageous efforts of the UNPROFOR troops deployed in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the pursuit of their duties, in difficult circumstances presenting great risks. OIC strongly condemns the Pale Serbs for the cowardly act of taking hostages of UNPROFOR personnel in contravention of international law. It stresses that Pale's leadership bears full responsibility for this terrorist act, as well as any further harm that may come to these UNPROFOR troops. OIC considers it imperative that the international community not succumb to this blackmail, whose motive is to subvert the five nations Contact Group peace plan, undermine the resolve of UNPROFOR, and by extension NATO, in fulfilling their mandate, and to subject the Bosnian Government to further iniquitous concessions. OIC demands the immediate and unconditional release of all these UNPROFOR personnel.

OIC firmly believes that the only response in the light of the current situation is not retreat, but rather resolve, and the robust implementation of the full UNPROFOR mandate contained in the relevant Security Council resolutions. OIC takes special note that numerous other fellow troop contributors have expressed the same during recent meetings of troop contributors in New York and at The Hague.

OIC believes that if any UNPROFOR mission is to reassert credibility and achieve success, its foremost priority must be the civilian population.

OIC, noting the strategic, logistical and political importance of Sarajevo as the capital of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and as the region's pluralistic cornerstone, urges measures to reverse the deteriorating situation in and around the city, which has arisen as a result of Pale Serb actions. OIC stresses the need to achieve full compliance with the Sarajevo exclusion zone. Violations of the exclusion zone, especially the targeting of civilians, which is a war crime, must be met with the use of judicious, rather than proportionate, force. Furthermore, OIC recalls that the concept of the exclusion zone and the "weapons collection sites" therein were developed as an alternative to airstrikes. If this alternative is violated, forceful action must be undertaken.

Likewise, the Gorazde exclusion zone must be respected, while the safe areas as a whole must be considered individually in order to ensure that the motive behind their establishment is fulfilled, namely protection of the

civilian population and as a means to preserve the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As such, any proposals with respect to the safe areas, including demilitarization, must fulfil this motive. In this context, OIC expresses its contempt for the terrorist act committed against Tuzla's civilian population, resulting in the murder of 71 young individuals, and notes that this is the type of heinous crime which was to be deterred by the safe area concept, and, as a terrorist act, warrants a judicious response. OIC reaffirms the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the safe areas and calls for their full implementation, and in this regard, is pleased to recall the positions of numerous troop contributors who oppose abandonment of the safe areas.

OIC is deeply troubled by the humanitarian situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the eastern enclave safe areas and the Bihac safe area, manifested by shortages of food, medicines and other essentials. OIC fully supports the establishment of land corridors to facilitate aid deliveries as well as the use of air-drops. With regard to Sarajevo, OIC urges that UNPROFOR take measures to secure fully the Blue Route, as it is Sarajevo's lifeline, and to reopen Sarajevo airport.

OIC is aware of the need to effectuate better security for UNPROFOR troops, and towards this end stresses the need for more personnel and better equipment for UNPROFOR troops and deployment measures to leave UNPROFOR troops less exposed. While striving to minimize the exposure of United Nations mandated forces to threats and hostage taking, OIC stresses that there can be no erosion of the mandate and commitment of the United Nations forces to their mission. OIC, in order to achieve the above, reiterates the readiness of OIC countries to contribute further to UNPROFOR, especially those that have expressed readiness to contribute troops to replace any withdrawing troops, and calls upon the Secretariat to consider seriously these offers in the process of strengthening UNPROFOR. In this context, OIC is encouraged by contributions of additional troops to UNPROFOR by other fellow troop contributors. It sees this as a positive trend, indicating a determination by the international community not to give in to Pale Serb intimidation, a renewed commitment to fulfil a mandate given, to see a just solution for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to end the suffering of Bosnia's beleaguered population.

OIC recognizes that the role of UNPROFOR must be complemented by an active political process, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations. The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina maintains its willingness to meet with the five nations Contact Group to facilitate a just and peaceful solution, and one that ensures the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political unity and territorial integrity. The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina also looks to establish more regular contact with the Secretariat, in order to facilitate timely exchanges of information and to forward the peace process.

OIC reaffirms the Declaration of the OIC Contact Group Foreign Ministers at the meeting at Rabat on 18 May 1995, in which it was reiterated that the arms embargo neither legally nor morally applies to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OIC instructs its Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina to prepare an analysis and response to the report of the Secretary-General on the future of UNPROFOR as well as other options offered by other relevant organizations.

OIC avails itself of this opportunity to express its deepest sympathy to the family of and the Government of H.E. Dr. Irfan Ljubljankic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who was murdered during the criminal shooting of the helicopter in which he was travelling.